

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05

XMB-04 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

/079 W

----- 026335

P R 0241444Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8324

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 0119

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR ETRN BB

SUBJ: LIAT TROUBLES MOUNT

REF: BRIDGETOWN 0081

1. LIAT CONTINUED BELT TIGHTENING MEASURES THIS WEEK AS IT REDUCED ITS FLIGHT SCHEDULE APPROXIMATELY 40 PER CENT THROUGHOUT REGION (EFFECTIVE JANUARY 24). FLIGHTS IN BARBADOS, LIAT'S BUSIEST POINT, WERE CUT FROM 12 TO 6 PER DAY. LIAT WAS ALSO REPORTEDLY READY TO CUT SAN JUAN FROM SCHEDULES. AIRLINE HAS REPORTEDLY SLASHED SOME 48 EMPLOYEES FROM ITS ROLLS THUS FAR, BUT WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS.

2. PERSONNEL REDUCTION IN DOMINICA CAUSED SLOW DOWN (REFTEL) WHICH DEVELOPED INTO FULL SCALE STRIKE LASTING ABOUT 48 HOURS. DISPUTE WAS SETTLED WHEN GOD AGREED NOT TO RENEW WORK PERMIT OF ANTIGUAN MANAGER AT DOMINICA. NO ACTION, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN TAKEN TO REINSTATE RELEASED EMPLOYEES.

3. WE HAVE NO FURTHER WORD RE FREQUENTLY POSTPONED MEETING OF  
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PARTIES CONCERNED TO DISCUSS AIRLINE'S FUTURE. CDB HAS BEEN PROMISED COPY OF AIR CANADA FEASIBILITY STUDY ON AIRLINE SOMETIME NEXT WEEK BUT BANK HAS NO DETAILS ON AIRLINE'S PRESENT STATUS OR PLANS.

4. COMMENT: LDC'S WILL NOW BEGIN TO FEEL PINCH WHICH MOST OF THEM KNEW WAS COMING. WE DO NOT NOW HAVE ANY NEW INFORMATION AS TO WHERE LIAT STANDS FINANCIALLY. COST CUTTING MEASURES MAY HELP SOMEWHAT BUT UNLESS LIAT CAN IRON OUT ITS FINANCING PROBLEMS, ITS FUTURE DOES NOT LOOK GOOD. ONE OF RELEASED PILOTS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT LIAT COULD NOT CONTINUE TO OPERATE "FOR MORE THAN A MONTH". IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE, ST. LUCIA PREMIER COMPTON, A KEY FIGURE IN ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPANY NOW OPERATING LIAT, EXPRESSED OPTIMISM REGARDING AIRLINE'S PROSPECTS BUT ADMITTED THAT PARTICIPATION OF GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO WAS ESSENTIAL.  
SIMMS

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRLINES, DEBTS, LABOR STRIKES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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